

HOUSE RESOLUTION 180

By Kane

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Edith Williams.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Edith Williams; and

WHEREAS, Edith Williams was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born December 16, 1929, Ms. Williams was a graduate of Knoxville High School, and she continued her education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT); and

WHEREAS, during her time at the University of Tennessee, she followed in her mother's and grandmother's footsteps and joined the Tri Delta sorority; upon graduating from the university in 1951, Ms. Williams possessed both great knowledge of and an enduring love for her alma mater that would serve as a beacon of light throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, in an effort to consolidate branding, the University of Tennessee eliminated the longstanding "Lady Vols" logo for their numerous women's athletic teams, a move that angered both fans and alumni alike; and

WHEREAS, a "Vol for Life", Ms. Williams became an active and much-beloved participant in the many protests and campaigns against the university's decision; and

WHEREAS, Edith Williams joined the "Save the Lady Vols" campaign and helped the volunteer organization collect petition signatures; send letters to the editors of numerous print publications; call the offices of the UT Athletic Department, the Chancellor, and the President; drop notes to legislators; and perform any task necessary to make her voice be heard; and

WHEREAS, in September 2017, then-UT Athletics Director John Currie announced that the Lady Vols name would be restored, and that all of the women's athletic teams could use the legendary name if they so chose; and

WHEREAS, this was a victory accomplished because of the hard work and determination of Volunteers like Edith Wilson; and

WHEREAS, always wanting to give back to her community, Ms. Wilson volunteered her time and compassion at Tennova Healthcare in South Knoxville on Fridays; and

WHEREAS, Edith Wilson was also deeply devoted to her family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order. She will be sorely missed by her children, Tom, Kate, Mark, and David; her extended family; and the many friends she made during the "Save the Lady Vols" campaign and throughout her estimable life; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Edith Williams, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Williams.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.